AN

ACCOUNT

Received from

Vice-Admiral TOWNSHEND,

Of his Taking, Sinking, Burning and Deſtroying the greateſt Part of a Fleet, conſiſting of 40 Martinico *Ships.*

Publiſhed by Authority.

Admiralty-Office, December 19.

BY Letters juſt arrived from Vice-Admiral Townſhend, dated in Prince Rupert's Bay, Dominica, the 8th of November 1745, there is an Account, that the Admiral, with his Fleet, being off the Iſland of Martinico, the 3d of October, had been join'd by the Woolwich and Pembroke, with two Martinico Ships, (one of them a Letter of Marque Ship of 16 Guns) the Captain whereof taking the Pembroke for a ſmaller Ship than ſhe was, fired ſeveral Broadſides at her, and the Pembroke in Return fired into her, and killed the Captain with 10 of his Men, and ſhot away his Mizen-maſt by the Board, on which ſhe ſtruck. The whole Number of Men taken Priſoners on Board the two Prizes, were 95.

In the Morning of the 22d of October, the Vice-Admiral being cloſe under the North End of the Iſland, ſaw ſome Sails, to which he gave Chace, and diſcovered two of them to be French Privateer Sloops, and a third a Prize which they had taken, laden with Proviſion from Dublin: The Vice-Admiral retook this laſt, and ſunk one of the others.

On the 31ſt, about Seven in the Morning, he diſcover'd 40 Sail of French Ships coming round the South End of Martinico, cloſe under the Shore, which he ſtemm'd with, and ſoon drew near enough to make them. Five or Six appeared to be pretty large Ships, whereupon the Admiral formed the Line of Battle. But finding their Commodore endeavour to avoid him, he hauled down the Signal for the Line, ordered a general Chace, and purſued the Enemy with all the Expedition poſſible, which ſucceeded ſo well, that ſeveral of the French Ships were driven to Leeward, and taken up by thoſe of his Majeſty's Squadron. Vice-Admiral Townſhend continued to purſue the Men of War, and one of them, called the Ruby, carrying away her Topmaſt, the Lenox got near enough to exchange ſome Broadſides, and forced her on Shore, into a ſandy Bay, under a Fortification on the South Side. The Commodore which was called the Magnanimous, of 80 Guns, with great Difficulty got under the Protection of Fort Royal and a Battery of 40 Guns on the oppoſite Shore; but being in great Hurry and Confuſion, ran a-ground, where he lay about 48 Hours, and in the Opinion of every Body muſt have received conſiderable Damage. The reſt of the Day was ſpent in cutting their Trade out, and burning and deſtroying them. Fifteen were taken that Afternoon, and three burnt, and ſome bulged upon the Rocks. The next Morning the Vice-Admiral ordered the Dreadnought and Ipſwich in, to attempt the 60 Gun Ship which lay aſhore. They fired ſome Broadſides at her, but finding the Shot did no Execution, quitted the Enterprize as impracticable. The next Day ſome of the Trade having ſheltered themſelves under the Shore, the Vice-Admiral order'd the Ipſwich, Argyle, and Severn, to deſtroy them, and they accordingly burnt a Ship and a Snow, and brought off a Brigantine. The Day after, being the 2d of November, was employed in burning and deſtroying what other Veſſels lay along Shore; and the Vice-Admiral writes, that upon the Whole, he believes about Thirty Sail have been taken, ſunk, burnt, and deſtroy'd; and that, as the Enemy had great Need of this Convoy, their Diſtreſs, upon the Diſappointment of receiving it, muſt be inconceivable. Theſe Letters add, that the French had lately loſt a 36 Gun Ship going into St. John's Porto Rico, and had then but three Men of War left in thoſe Seas.

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